

Patent Purchase Promotion - FAQs

Question: Why is Google doing this?

Answer: We view this as an experiment. We are looking for ways to help improve the patent landscape, and we hope that by removing some of the friction that exists in the secondary market for patents, this program might yield better, more immediate results for patent owners versus partnering with non-practicing entities.

Question: Why can't I submit a whole patent family? Why only one patent per submission?

Answer: Because this is an experiment, we wanted to keep it simple (for both us and submitters). We fully acknowledge that not everyone with patents to sell will be willing or able to make use of this program, but if we get sufficient interest, who knows how we will be able to improve it for next time? If you have any comments on how to improve this process for potential future iterations, please email at Patent-Purchase-Promotion@google.com.

And folks who have assets that are not appropriate under this program or who otherwise don't feel comfortable participating are always free to submit patent issues to Google at our [Patent Opportunity Submission Portal](#).

Question: Can anyone make a submission?

Answer: If you are the patent owner or have the legal right from the patent owner to sell us the patent, you can make the submission. However, we are only going to be able to pay entities that have a US Tax ID number or who can fill out a [W-8BEN-E](#) (*i.e.*, many but not all foreign entities) or a [W-8BEN](#) form for individuals. Because of this, if you aren't able to provide us with a US tax identification number (for individuals), or a W-9 (for US-based companies), a [W-8BEN-E](#) (for foreign companies) or [W-8BEN](#) (for foreign individuals), you should not participate.

Question: How much money is Google going to spend? How many patents is Google going to buy?

Answer: We don't know yet. It will really be a function of how much interest we receive and the type of patents that are submitted.

Question: What does Google intend to do with the patents it purchases?

Answer: Google maintains a large patent portfolio. Any patents purchased by Google through this program will join our portfolio and can be used by Google in all the normal ways that patents can be used (e.g., we can license them to others, etc.)

Question: If Google ends up buying my patent, can I still practice the invention?

Answer: Yes. As part of our Patent Acquisition [Agreement](#) (see section 4.4), sellers will retain a license back to their patent. For you lawyers out there, the license is “irrevocable, non-exclusive, non-transferable, non-assignable (including by operation of law or otherwise), non-sublicensable, worldwide, [and] fully paid-up.”

Question: How come Google isn't buying foreign assets or applications?

Answer: In order to streamline this experiment, we decided to simplify things by limiting the submissions to US patents only. But we will see what level of interest we get in the program, and future iterations might very well accommodate such transactions. And folks who have assets that are not appropriate under this program or who otherwise don't feel comfortable participating are always free to submit patent issues to Google at our [Patent Opportunity Submission Portal](#).

Question: How do I get more information?

Answer: There really isn't that much more to tell. Obviously, we can't give anyone legal advice and we encourage anyone thinking about this program to consult with an attorney. Because of the logistics of trying to clear what we hope will be a lot of different transactions in a relatively short period of time, we aren't going to negotiate with anyone. You set the price, we set the terms, and if things work out, we will get you paid by the end of summer. However, if you do have any questions, please email us at Patent-Purchase-Promotion@google.com, and we will do our best to get back to you in a timely fashion.

Question: When will I know if my bid is tentatively accepted?

Answer: Assuming all goes well, we plan to let all submitters know (one way or the other) by June 26, 2015. With respect to folks who we contact about purchasing their patents, please understand that such notice is **tentative and requires additional information to be provided to Google (e.g., a list of encumbrances, whether the patent is relevant to any pending litigation matters, etc.)**. Throughout this process (until we send you back a fully executed Patent Acquisition Agreement), Google reserves the right to not transact for any reason whatsoever (and, for NO reason at all).

Question: If my bid is accepted, how will I be paid?

Answer: Google will pay by ACH transfer directly to your bank account. Please note that unlike certain other kinds of wire transfers, ACH can take a few days to clear and show up in your account.